

Harcourt Road: C & G Artpartment

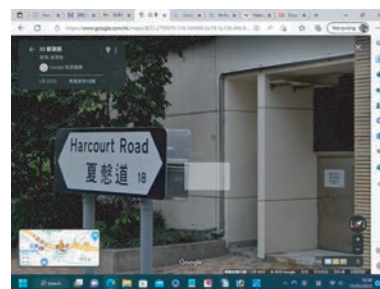
6 April - 5 May 2023

Launch Event: Wed 5 April, 6-8pm

featuring an artist talk with C & G Artpartment 6:30-7pm



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SHEFFIELD



Supported by the School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield and Bloc Projects

Bio of C & G Artpartment

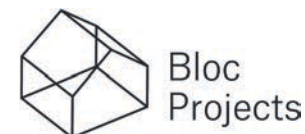
C & G (Clara CHEUNG & Gum CHENG Yee Man) are two Hong Kong artists who have founded the art space: C&G Artpartment in Hong Kong, in 2007. With a strong concern over the local art ecology, C & G use their art to respond to social and cultural issues. Their essential goal is to fill up the crack in the current art scene, and allow C & G Artpartment becomes an art space for idea exchanges. In the past 15 years, C & G Artpartment has curated more than 100 art exhibitions that included more than 100 local artists to respond to the social and cultural issues in Hong Kong.

The practice of the Hong Kong-based artist group C & G (Clara and Gum) is humorous and challenging at the same time. The activities that C & G organise are often collective and participatory in nature, with a focus on issues surrounding the art ecology of Hong Kong as well as current events. C & G was invited to participate in different important international Art events, such as Shanghai Biennale(2018) and Singapore Biennale(2019) etc.,

On June 30th, 2020, People's Republic of China imposed National Security Law onto Hong Kong and, thereafter, started massive political persecution that destroyed the space for freedom of speech in Hong Kong. In August 2021, C & G Artpartment had to end its physical space in Hong Kong, and decided to move to the UK in the end of the year, in order to keep fighting for our artistic freedom and to encourage more to make critical art.



www.blocprojects.co.uk
www.CandG-Artpartment.com



Clara 同阿金諗嘅夏慳道

對我Clara嚟講，生活喺香港，如果唔揸車，你對城市地理嘅了解多數都係停留喺一個由建築物、購物中心同地鐵站名組成嘅網絡上面。2014年雨傘運動期間，我開始四圍認街名，同實際行唔同嘅街、認清楚D主要方向方位，所以對夏慳道有咗更多嘅了解。

對我阿金嚟講，最初認識夏慳道，應該係90年代初，我曾經擁有嘅一部聲寶牌輕便手提卡式機（俗稱Walkman）壞咗，咁我攞去維修嘅地址就係金鐘夏慳道海富中心。咁我當時查呢個維修地址嘅時候，就認識咗夏慳道，亦都查字典查到個「慳」字係讀確。

香港，自2003年開始，7月1號都會有針對政府嘅大型遊行，路線係由銅鑼灣維多利亞公園遊行到當時嘅中環政府總部。喺2011年8月新政府總部開始啟用，咁之後嘅遊行路線就改去位於夏慳道隔離嘅新政府總部。

2014年9月28號，雨傘運動開始，呢個係一個長達79日嘅佔領運動，以敦促香港政府按照香港憲法嘅承諾進行普選。咁運動開始嘅點就係政府總部夏慳道一帶，夏慳道係當時第一個被佔領嘅地點，香港人第一次喺一個下晝、一個地點「食」咗87個催淚彈。跟住就佔領埋旺角彌敦道，同埋銅鑼灣SOGO附近。

香港嘅夏慳道係一條有8條行車線、好闊嘅公路。

喺雨傘運動期間，金鐘嘅夏慳道被帳篷、睡袋、學生圖書館、公民討論、露天音樂會同好多其他社區活動所佔據。2014年尾，喺政府清場前，夏慳道變成咗79日嘅公民廣場。清場前一晚，夏慳道橋上面掛起咗一條寫住「we will be back（中文：我哋會返嚟）」嘅黃色長直幡。呢D都係事實。

2014年後，中共對香港政府嘅箝制進一步加強，未能兌現香港人真普選嘅承諾。5年後，2019年，《逃犯條例》（俗稱「送中條例」）出台，香港人重返街頭。今次香港人無咁多佔領，而係用游擊戰術，而Be Water就成為咗2019年反送中運動嘅座右銘。

咁喺正政府總部嘅夏慳道，仍然係抗爭要點。2019年呢場運動我哋食咗更多更多催淚彈，但警方就唔敢再公佈使用量喇。C & G曾經同其他香港人一齊喺夏慳道上面，喺催淚煙之中，流晒大汗、有D驚、左閃右避嘅記憶，係我哋喺錫菲呢度，仲要喺樹蔭底第一次見到Harcourt Road（夏慳道）路牌時嘅反應。

夏慳道對我哋C & G嚟講，已經同抗爭連結咗

我哋C & G喺2021年搬嚟英國錫菲住之後，自然會四圍行吓，認下附近嘅路，咁啱行過呢度嘅夏慳道，個腦即時比較呢度同香港嘅夏慳道，即時好多抗爭嘅畫面喺腦度出現，雖然同錫菲又優雅、樹蔭小路、斜頂排屋格格不入，但呢種聯想係抑制唔到。

2021年到而家，經過咗好多次呢度嘅夏慳道，總係覺得應該要做返啲嘢。咁喺舊年（2022年）有機會參與一個叫做 "Peer to Peer: UK/HK 2022" 嘅英國香港藝術交流計劃。就開展咗我哋有關錫菲同香港同名街道嘅一D創作同埋諗法。（請登入呢個網址瀏覽詳情：<https://peertopeerexchange.org/projects/back-forth>）

今年2023年，我哋C & G有機會被Bloc Projects邀請，參加一個為期一年至一年半嘅駐場計劃，咁我哋就順理成章喺呢個計劃裏邊探討更多關於由香港夏慳道引伸到錫菲夏慳道嘅故事，咁由而家至到2024、2025年或者再長啲嘅時間都會研究夏慳道，包括佢哋嘅歷史、個人故事、野史、鬼故、文獻、文物、發展等等。

呢個展覽就係呢系列計劃嘅開始，我哋會喺呢度收集大家對夏慳道嘅個人故事，故事圍繞香港嘅又好、錫菲嘅又好，甚至其他地方嘅夏慳道都可以。喺展場入面嘅繪畫作品，係我哋對夏慳道嘅親身經歷、生活故事、同埋一啲刺激大家聯想、鼓勵大家分享故事嘅創作。等大家欣賞我哋嘅創作之餘，可以刺激下大家，希望大家可以分享返，將夏慳道故事比多啲人知。唔講你哋可能唔知，香港夏慳道嘅路牌裡面嘅「慳」字都唔統一，我就搵到三個唔同嘅「慳」字，包括：「慳」、「慳」同埋「慳」（見圖），邊個字先最正宗就唔知喇。

咁我哋又無發現呢度嘅"Harcourt Road"有串錯字嘅。：）

呢個展覽仲有一個配套活動，係4月29號，下晝1 - 4點，會喺呢度嘅夏慳道一帶做戶外寫生，

我哋會提供材料㗎。有興趣嘅朋友，可以喺呢度報名：<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/600318016347/>



Harcourt Road For Clara & Gum

Clara: Living in Hong Kong, if you don't drive, your understanding of its urban geography would mostly be anchored in the names of buildings, shopping centres and subway stations. During the Umbrella Movement in 2014, I started to navigate the city of Hong Kong by street names and cardinal directions.

Gum: My knowledge of Harcourt Road dates back to the early 1990s when my Sharp walkman broke down. I went to Admiralty Centre on Harcourt Road to get it repaired. I came to know of Harcourt Road then and learned how to pronounce the Chinese character of "Court/慇" after looking it up in a dictionary.

Large-scale demonstrations calling out the misdeeds of the Hong Kong government have been taking place since 2003 annually, on July 1st. The route used to start at Victoria Park in Causeway Bay and would end at the Government Headquarters in Central. The headquarters relocated to Harcourt Road in August 2011, and the protest route has also since been changed to reflect that.

The Umbrella Movement erupted on Harcourt Road on September 28, 2014. The call for universal suffrage resulted in a 79-day-long occupation of several major commercial districts, including Harcourt Road. As one of the first major sites of protests, it was a focal point for police efforts; 87 tear-gas canisters were fired in one afternoon. This was soon followed by the occupation of Nathan Road in Mong Kok and the roads around the popular department store Sogo, on Hennessy Road in Causeway Bay.

Harcourt Road in Hong Kong is a wide road with eight lanes of traffic. During the Umbrella Movement, it was occupied by tents and sleeping bags, with infrastructure that included a student library, town halls for civic discussion and a platform for open air concerts as well as other community activities. For 79 days, Harcourt Road was the people's square until the movement was forcibly evicted. A long yellow banner stating "we will be back" hung over Harcourt Road on the last night. These are facts.

After 2014, the Chinese Communist Party tightened its control over Hong Kong, failing still to deliver universal suffrage in the city. When the Extradition Law was enforced five years later in 2019, Hongkongers returned to the streets and, instead of occupying sites, moved fluidly through the city under the motto "Be Water".

Harcourt Road continued to be an important site of confrontation between protesters and the police, who used so much tear gas that they stopped announcing the number of rounds they fired. As we encountered the street sign for Harcourt Road under a shady tree in Sheffield, the scenes came flooding back: running together with other Hongkongers, sweaty, fearful and courageous, amid the smell of tear gas.

To us, Harcourt Road has become synonymous with political struggle

After we moved to Sheffield, England in 2021, we noticed and recognised the familiar names of streets. When we passed by Sheffield's Harcourt Road, we were immediately brought back to the struggles despite the tree-shaded paths and terraced houses in front of us.

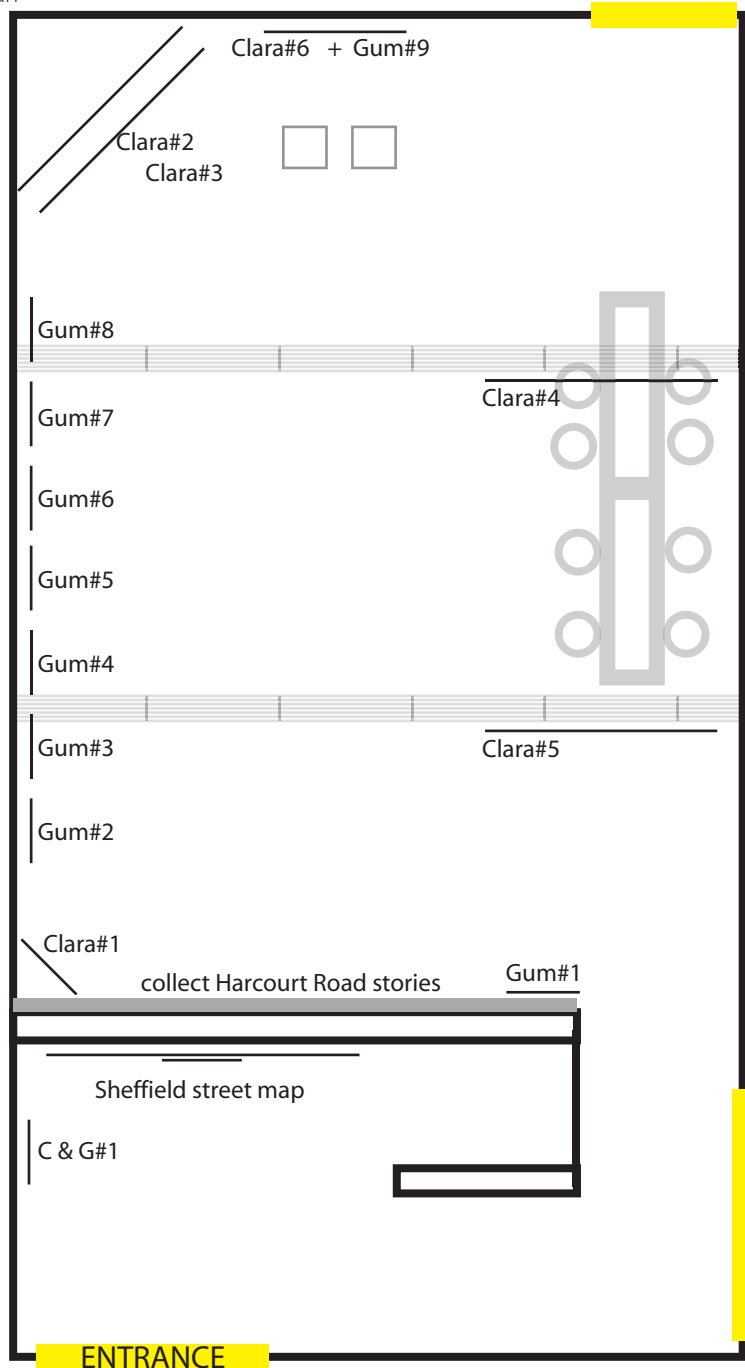
We wanted to do something meaningful after visiting the Sheffield street a number of times. In 2022, we had the opportunity as C&G Artpartment to participate in an art exchange project called 'Peer to Peer: UK/HK 2022', which inspired us to start a relational project exploring the same street names in Sheffield and Hong Kong. (To learn more about this project, please visit <https://peertopeerexchange.org/projects/back-forth>)

This year, 2023, we were very happy to be invited by Bloc Projects to participate in a year-long artist residency. It was only natural for us to explore the story of Harcourt Road in both Hong Kong and Sheffield as part of this program. From now until 2024, our research will delve into the personal narratives, unofficial histories, ghost stories, documents, cultural relics, and development of the two Harcourt Roads.

The current exhibition marks the beginning of this comparative heritage project. We will collect personal stories about Harcourt Road from individuals across Hong Kong, Sheffield, and beyond. The paintings in the exhibition represent our own experiences of Harcourt Roads and life stories. We hope the project will invite curiosity about the stories of the Harcourt Roads as well as encourage the sharing of stories. Interestingly, the street signs for Harcourt Road in Hong Kong have three different variations of the character 慇 / 慇 / 慇. We don't know which one is the most original. Are there any typos in the spelling of 'Harcourt Road' street signs here?

We would like to invite everyone to experience Harcourt Road, Sheffield for an outdoor painting session on April 29th, from 1 – 4pm, meeting at Crookes Valley Park next to Harcourt Road. We will provide all the materials, e.g. canvas, paint etc. Bring a bottle of water (to hydrate as well as use for mixing paints) and some snacks. Sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/600318016347/>





Gum#1

2014年9月28日私人Youtube 頻道
Personal Youtube channel, 28th
September, 2014

80cm(H) x 100cm(W) x 4.5cm(D)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~2014年9月28日晚上・前線直擊警方催
淚彈驅散市民
~Night of 28th September, 2014, front
line reported that the police used tear
gas to disperse the citizens

Gum#2

2019年5月9日私人WhatsApp
Personal WhatsApp 9 September
2019

64cm(H) x 34cm(W)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~立法會公眾入口二集合
~我那307到東隧了
~門口請話搵XXX
XXX室
~下站落車
~我在這
~Gather at the public entry no. 2 of
The Legislative Council Complex
~My 307 bus just arrived
~Please mention meeting with XXX
Room XXX
~Will get off next stop
~I am here

Gum#3

2019年6月16日私人WhatsApp
Personal WhatsApp 16 June 2019

64cm(H) x 34cm(W)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~出咗夏慤道lu
~Just left Harcourt Road

Gum#4

2019年8月5日私人Telegram
Personal Telegram 5 August 2019

64cm(H) x 34cm(W)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~5:30 金鐘
~5:30 Admiralty

Gum#5

2019年8月31日私人Telegram
Personal Telegram 31 August 2019

64cm(H) x 34cm(W)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~1807 中環：防暴警察在文華酒店對出・
沿干諾道中往金鐘推進。
~[即時] (17:56)逾千名示威者留守在夏慤道
與添華道交界，防暴警察在水馬內設置高
台及在特首辦的平台上，不斷向夏慤道行
車線上的示威者發射催淚彈。
~1807 Central: The riot police marched
from Mandarin Hotel along Connaught
Road Central towards Admiralty.
~[Instant] (17:56) More than a thousand
protesters stayed at the junction of
Harcourt Road and Tim Wah Ave. The riot
police set up high platforms in the water
horse and on the platform of the Chief
Executive Office, and continuously firing
tear gas at protesters on Harcourt Road
traffic lanes.

Gum#6

2019年9月1日私人Telegram
Personal Telegram 1 September 2019

64cm(H) x 34cm(W)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~Full tweet:
<http://twitter.com/xxxxxxxxxx/status/1167846079892582401?s=20>
~禽日呢架嘢係夏愨道上方不停盤旋
大家都好懷疑佢做乜九
有師兄提醒佢可能洒螢光粉
如今有人驗證
~Full tweet:
<http://twitter.com/xxxxxxxxxx/status/1167846079892582401?s=20>
~Yesterday, it was hovering above
Harcourt Road
Everyone doubts what it was doing
A bro reminded that it might sprinkle
fluorescent powder
Now someone verified

Gum#7

2019年9月15日私人Telegram
Personal Telegram 15 September 2019

64cm(H) x 34cm(W)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~#民眾防護相關情報 #民防安全地圖 #港島
一帶情況整合
1630更新
~數百示威者佔領夏愨道
警出水炮射催淚劑、顏色水
[即時] (17:45)市民於港島「自
~#Related information on public protection
#Safety map of public protection
#Consolidation of the situation around
Hong Kong Island
1630 update
~Hundreds of protesters occupy Harcourt Road
Police use water cannons to shoot tear gas,
colored water
[Instant] (17:45) Citizens on Hong Kong Island

Gum#8

2019年9月28日私人Telegram
Personal Telegram 28 September
2019

64cm(H) x 34cm(W)
油彩布本Oil on canvas
2023

~18:44 防暴警察在立法會一帶展示紅旗 向
在場人士噴胡椒噴霧
~18:47 海富天橋上有人踢向水馬外大閘 警
員再噴胡椒噴霧
~<https://www.facebook.com/icablenews/videos/624860408047571/>
~[Live] 民陣添馬公園集會現場，以及金鐘
一帶實況
21:28 夏愨道恢復行車...-有線新聞i-Cable
News
[Live] 民陣添馬公園集會現場，以及金鐘
一帶實況
21:28 夏愨道恢復行車
21:25 金鐘警察退上警車
21:15 示威者向中環撤去
21:03 防暴警察向金鐘方向推進
21:07 防暴警察於夏愨花園外戒備 大批...
~18:44 Riot police displayed red flags
around the Legislative Council and
sprayed pepper spray on those present
~18:47 Someone on the footbridge
connecting the Admiralty MTR Station
and the Central Government Offices,
kicked towards the gate outside the
water-filled barriers, the police then
sprayed pepper spray again
~<https://www.facebook.com/icablenews/videos/624860408047571/>
~[Live] CHRF(Civil Human Rights Front)'s Tamar
Park Rally scene, and the scene in Admiralty
21:28 Harcourt Road resumes traffic...-
Cable News i-Cable News
[Live] CHRF's Tamar Park rally scene,
and the scene in Admiralty
21:28 Harcourt Road resumes traffic
21:25 police back into the police car in
Admiralty
21:15 Protesters retreat to Central
21:03 Riot police move towards Admiralty
21:07 Riot police stand guard outside
Harcourt Gardens, a large number of...

Gum#9

《策你老毛》之「郵遞藝術」
“Curate No More” --- Mail Art

7'14"
高清、彩色、有聲單頻錄像、
循環播放
HD, colour, single channel with
sound, loop
2015

於2013年9月至2015年8月，每星期
閱報後，找出一些有關政府施政、
政策等的報道，然後把自己對相關
報道的意見，連同該剪報，寄到行
政長官辦公室，給梁振英收，然後
每星期都收到行政長官私人秘書及
相關政府部門的回信。而這錄像將
展示自己與梁振英的書信往來的過
程。

From September 2013 to August
2015, Gum has mailed one letter
to the Chief Executive Office, for
Mr. Leung Chun Ying, every
week, along with selected news-
clips and Gum's opinion about
the news article. Gum, then,
receives a letter from the secre-
tary of the Chief Executive and
related government departments
every week. The video will show-
case the process of communica-
tion with Mr. Leung Chun Ying in
mail throughout the project.

是次展出一系列繪畫，以藝術家
阿金一貫以來模糊黑白為主調，
只以單一黑色塑造所有灰度，畫
黑留白，媒介為油彩布本。

這系列作品繼續以藝術家的私人社
交媒體上的紀錄，作為繪畫元素。

這系列8幅油彩布本畫作，為藝術
家移居英國後第二批個人創作，內
容記錄藝術家於2014年9月28日至
2019年9月28日期間，與夏愨道有
關的一些私人社交媒體上的截圖紀
錄。這些畫面到現在為止仍然影響
著我對夏愨道的想像——抗爭。

The paintings exhibited, based on
artist, Gum's consistent blurred
black and white as the main
theme, only using a single black
to shape all gray levels, painting
black and leaving white, and the
medium is oil on canvas.

This series of works continues to
use the artist's personal social
media records as painting
elements.

The 8 oil paintings are the second
batch of personal creations of the
artist after he immigrated to the
UK. The content records the scre-
encaps of the artist on some his
private social media related to
Harcourt Road from September
28, 2014 to September 28, 2019.
These images still influence my
imagination of Harcourt Road —
PROTEST.

Clara#1

「盧亭收集夏愨道故事」橫額 I
“Lo Ting Calling for Harcourt
Road Stories” Banner I

90 (w) x 180 (h)cm
塑膠彩布本Acrylic on canvas
2023

喺香港做區議員嘅一年半期間，我嘗試同唔同嘅藝術家去玩個啲Banner位，試過循環再用舊衣物去編織橫額，亦試過成塊黑板擺出嚟俾大家寫。

When I served as a Hong Kong District Councillor, I made use of the dedicated banner spots for councillors to communicate with my constituents. Besides weaving creative banners with recycled fabric, I also put up blackboards to invite the public to write their own messages.

Clara#2

夏愨道窗戶
Windows at Harcourt Road

180 (w) x 90 (h)cm
塑膠彩布本Acrylic on canvas
2023

街坊Simon仲寄咗張聖誕節時影嘅，夏愨道窗門嘅相俾我。窗門有烏克蘭旗，仲寫住「永不放棄」！而其實香港嘅夏愨道，係紀念代表香港二戰後接受日本投降嘅夏愨將軍，即係光復香港！
Simon also sent me a photo of Harcourt Road' s windows during Christmas. The window shows Ukrainian flag and says “Never Give Up” ! By the way, Harcourt Road in Hong Kong was named after Admiral Harcourt who represented Hong Kong to accept Japanese surrender after WWII, when Hong Kong was liberated.

Clara#3

自由橫額
Banner of Freedom

180 (w) x 90 (h)cm
塑膠彩布本Acrylic on canvas
2023

盧亭係一群好耐好耐以前喺香港居住嘅半人半魚生物。有歷史學者認為，盧亭可能係一班魏晉南北朝期間，喺北方革命失敗而南逃至香港嘅革命黨成員。

Lo Ting is a group of a half-fish-half-human creatures living in south of HK long time ago. Some historians associate the origin of Lo Ting with the revolutionists who failed to overthrow the authority in Northern China in 400 AD and, thereafter, fled to HK

Clara#4

夏愨道拔河
Tug of War at Harcourt Road

180 (w) x 90 (h)cm
塑膠彩布本Acrylic on canvas
2023

為咗認識多啲Sheffield嘅夏愨道，我專程電郵俾「夏愨道社區」小組，亦好開心收到夏愨道街坊Simon的回信。佢仲寄咗啲夏愨道嘅相嚟，例如有街坊好開心咁玩拔河。
Researching about Sheffield' s Harcourt Road, I email “Harcourt Road Community,” and am so happy to receive response from Simon who knows Harcourt Road so well. He even sent me photos from Harcourt Road. One of the image shows the neighbours happily playing Tug of War together.

Clara#5

「盧亭收集夏愨道故事」橫額 II
“Lo Ting Calling for Harcourt
Road Stories” Banner II

180 (w) x 90 (h)cm
塑膠彩布本Acrylic on canvas
2023

2021年，為咗避開政治打壓，同埋繼續自由發聲，過咗嚟英國，亂打亂撞去咗參觀曼城嘅人民歷史博物館，見到好多英國以往嘅政治橫額。好鍾意當中用嘅符號，好想可以再了解多啲呢度嘅橫額製作歷史，亦都想畫一系列以香港神話人物：盧亭 為主角嘅橫額。

In 2021, I relocated to the UK, to flee from political prosecution in Hong Kong (HK), and had a chance to encounter a series of political banners at People' s History Museum in Manchester. Fascinated by the rich history and iconography of political banners in the UK, I want to further study the visual language of these banners and develop a series of banner-paintings for Lo Ting, the ancient mythical figure of Hongkongers.

Clara#6

擲一千隻雞蛋
Egging, with 1000 eggs

10'
標清、彩色、有聲單頻錄像、循環播放
SD, colour, single channel with
sound, loop
2015

Clara#6及Gum#9兩段錄像為Clara & Gum於2015年分別在位於夏愨道的立法會門外及行政長官辦公室門外，實行為藝術創作的紀錄。
Clara#6 & Gum#9, the two videos are the documentary of Clara & Gum's performance art happened outside the Legislative Council and the Chief Executive's Office on Harcourt Road in 2015.